recruitment of the persons with disabilities is concerned. The Government have also taken other measures to promote socio-economic rehabilitation of the persons with disabilities by providing soft-loans and micro-credit through National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) for self employment and grants to NGOs for vocational training and placement. The Ministry of Labour is implementing the Scheme of Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRC), through which disabled persons are assessed for residual ability and provided appropriate training for economic rehabilitation. There are 17 VRCs in the country.

Hostels for SC students

3052. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hostels for scheduled caste students actually constructed during 1998-99, State-wise and U.T. wise;

(b) whether utilization certificates for the completion and proper utilization of funds previously sanctioned received from them; and

(c) if not, the action taken to ensure that scheme for hostel facilities for SC boys and girls are actually implemented by the concerned State and UT Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid down to the table of the House.

Inclusion of Tarkhan in SC Category in H.P.

3053. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Communities which have been included in the Scheduled Caste category in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, separately;

(b) whether Government have received a communication from the Government of Himachal Pradesh for inclusion of Tarkhan in the Scheduled Caste category on the pattern of inclusion of Badhais in that category by Punjab Government; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in this regard?